

The present Office Action contains an objection to the drawings which has been addressed by the enclosed Letter Requesting Approval of Drawing Changes with the exception that Figures 5a -5b will be corrected with the filing of formal drawings upon the indication of allowable subject matter as there are no corrections to be made other than the informalities and the quality of the drawings.

The specification has been modified in accordance with the requirement of item 4 of the Office Action and claims 26 and 27 have been amended to address the objections at item 5 on page 3 of the Office Action.

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, with respect to proper antecedent basis. In response to this rejection, Applicants have amended claim 2 to provide a proper recitation.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by the reference to Sakaguchi et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,408,831 for the reasons indicated at item 11, on page 4 of the Office Action. Claims 4 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over the above reference to Sakaguchi and claims 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as obvious over Sakaguchi in view of Gillich, U.S. Patent No. 6,310,737. Claims 2, 17-28 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over Sakaguchi in view of Choi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,059,416 and lastly, claims 29 and 30 have been rejected over the combination of Sakaguchi, Choi and Gillich.

In response to these rejections, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 10 and 11 and have also amended independent claim 24 to provide similar limitations.

Because claims 10 and 11 were rejected as anticipated by Sakaguchi, the following comments will be addressed to the features of independent claims 1 and 24 which now contain the limitations of claims 10 and 11 in order to more clearly define over the reference to Sakaguchi.

The reference to Sakaguchi concerns an optical switch for switching laser beams with the transparent glass plate having a reflection film on the surface. When the reflection film is at a first position, the first input beam is coupled at the output beam through the transparent glass plate with the second input beam being blocked. In a second position of the reflection film, the first input beam is blocked while the second is coupled to the output beam. The switch body 50, as shown in Figures 4e and 4f, does not swivel. On the contrary, the switch body 50 of Sakaguchi provides a guide for sliding the support with the reflecting mirror surface. The secondary references to Gillich and Choi also do not disclose a swivelling switch body.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 24 provide a structure and a method which is not shown by the references or their combination and it is also submitted that because of none of the references have this limitation concerning a mirror surface with a swivelling switch body, the enclosed invention is not obvious in light of the references. The reference to Sakaguchi, leads one skilled in the art away from the present invention because it requires a complex structure to use a glass support body with a mirror surface as a switch for the optical switching of the light path.

Therefore, in view of the changes to the specification and the claims to address the objections and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 without adding any


new matter and raising any new issues and in view of the distinguishing features between the claimed invention and the references which features are not shown or disclosed or made obvious by the references or their combination, Applicants respectfully request that this application containing claims 1-9 and 12-30 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #622HE/48982).

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 4, please amend the paragraphs between lines 14 and 22 bridging page 5, lines 1-11 as follows:

It is an advantage of the invention that, by means of known polishing methods, high-quality glass surfaces can be produced at reasonable cost, in which case, for example, a mean linear roughness of $< 0.01 \text{ [}\mu\text{m] mm}$ can easily be achieved. Furthermore, by means of developed known processes, such a glass body can be provided very precisely with a highly reflective, optically very good mirror layer.

A further development of the invention provides that the glass body carrying the at least one mirror surface is cut as a mirror element out of a glass plate provided with at least one reflective layer. The reason is that, by means of the conventional glass polishing methods, also larger glass surfaces can advantageously be produced in a high-quality manner with low surface roughness, can be polished and subsequently coated with the reflective layer. In this fashion, the surface can therefore be achieved by a larger number of mirror elements of a constant homogeneous quality. The corresponding mirror elements can then be cut out of a thus fabricated glass plate, for example, in a sufficiently precise manner by means of notching and breaking or, for example, by means of a wafering saw.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-2, 12-16, 24, 26 and 27 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) Switch for the optical switching of a light path, particularly for switching the entering of light into a fiber-optical light guide, the switch having at least one mirror surface for reflecting the light, a support being equipped with a reflective layer for establishing the mirror surface, wherein the support is a glass body and wherein the at least one mirror surface for reflecting the light is arranged on a swivelling switch body.

2. (Twice Amended) Switch according to Claim 1, wherein [the] a mirror element comprising the at least one mirror surface and the glass body is cut out of a glass plate provided with at least one reflective layer.

12. (Twice Amended) Switch according to Claim [10] 1, wherein the switch body is produced from a material which can be cast or injection molded.

13. (Twice Amended) Switch according to Claim [10] 1, wherein the support is arranged on an essentially cuboid-shaped switch body in a surface-flush manner in a recess.

14. (Twice Amended) Switch according to Claim [10] 1, wherein the support is inserted at an essentially cuboid-shaped switch body approximately at a level of medium deepness, preferably in a form closure.

15. (Twice Amended) Switch according to Claim [10] 1, wherein the support projects from the switch body approximately in the manner of a lug.

16. (Twice Amended) Switch according to Claim [10] 1, wherein support is glued to the switch body.

24. (Amended) A method of making a switch for the optical switching of a light path, particularly for switching the entering of light into a fiber-optical light guide, the switch having at least one mirror surface for reflecting the light, a support being equipped with a reflective layer for establishing the mirror surface, wherein [the] said support is a glass body, and wherein the at least one mirror surface for reflecting light is arranged on a swivelling switch body,

said method comprising forming the support by cutting a glass body out of glass plate provided with at least one reflective layer and arranging said support on said swivelling switch body.

26. (Amended) A method of making a switch according to Claim 24, wherein the glass body has a thickness of between [.02mm and 0.7mm] 0.02 mm and 0.7 mm.

27. A method of making a switch according to Claim 26, wherein the glass body has a thickness of between [0.1mm and 0.5mm] 0.1 mm and 0.5 mm.